

Minerva Award Winners 2004



Lula Washington is the Founder/Artistic Director of the Lula Washington Dance Theatre, a renowned 10 member modern dance company founded in Los Angeles in 1980. In addition, Ms. Washington runs Lula Washington Contemporary Dance Foundation, a school of dance for 200 students, a youth dance ensemble performing group, and an after-school program called "I Do Dance, Not Drugs!" The

organization owns its own building in the heart of Los Angeles' African-American community on Crenshaw Boulevard. It has been the heart and soul for many children who have come off the inner-city streets into the safe haven of Ms. Washington's dance studio.

Lula is admired as a teacher, leader, dancer and choreographer, whose talents have been compared to such legendary giants as Martha Graham and Twyla Tharp. Her passion is using choreography to explore serious social issues from a humanistic perspective. She receives the Minerva Award today for inspiring hundreds of her students to do the same.

Ana C. Deutsch, MFT, is the Co-Founder and Clinical Director of the Program for Torture Victims, a nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating the suffering of political refugees by providing medical and mental health services. Ana's major focus is on restoring the shattered lives of her clients by restoring their human dignity and bringing back their strength. As an immigrant and refugee herself, she has provided leadership and inspiration towards understanding the psychosocial issues confronted by victims of torture. A native of Argentina, Ana obtained her degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Córdoba, Argentina.



Helene Brown is known as a "political oncologist" and an outspoken activist who is responsible for using mass media marketing in promoting the pap smear, a major force in reducing women's mortality rates from cervical cancer. In addition, Helene's efforts in bringing breast cancer to the medical forefront spearheaded the American Cancer Society's official publication of "Guidelines for Cancer Related Health Examinations," encouraging all women to obtain yearly mammograms. Recently, she served as the National Co-Chair of ASSIST (American Stop Smoking Intervention Study Trial), which has been successful in significantly reducing cancer caused by cigarette smoke. Helene is a lifelong advisor to community health programs, as well as a noted lecturer on cancer and volunteerism.



Dr. Mimi Halper Silbert embodies the passion, commitment and ground-breaking accomplishments that will set the gold standard for California's first Minerva "Lifetime Achievement" Awardee. As the co-founder and executive director of The Delancey Street Foundation, she created one of the world's best rehabilitation programs for those with substance abuse or criminal pasts, providing them with academic, vocational and social skills to live in a society legitimately—at no cost to taxpayers. Based in San Francisco, Delancey Street has had a lasting impact on the people of California, and the 14,000 successful graduates who are living drug-, crime- and alcohol-free. Many have emerged as productive and self-reliant individuals with college degrees after graduating from Delancey Street's residential program. To this day, Mimi Halper Silbert remains the only non-resident employee of Delancey Street.